

1 Claims:

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4 1. In a length of rigid material with first and second unjoined edges, a reinforcing ridge comprising:

- 5 (a) a short extension connected to said first unjoined edge;
- 6 (b) a long extension connected to said second unjoined edge; and
- 7 (c) a connection locking slot in said long extension conformed to just receive and retain
- 8 said short section when said unjoined edges are brought together.

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10 2. The invention of Claim 1 further comprising:

- 11 (a) front and back faces on said short and long extensions; and
- 12 (b) said long extension front face conformed to generally cover said short extension
- 13 front face and partially cover said short extension back face.

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15 3. The invention of Claim 2 wherein said long extension is approximately twice as long as

16 said short section and said long extension generally covers all of the front face of said short

17 extension and approximately one-half of the back face of said short extension.

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19 4. The invention of Claim 1 wherein said rigid material forms a rectangle with said

20 reinforcing ridge in one side and at least one reinforcing rib in a side facing said

21 reinforcing ridge.

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1 ~~5. The invention of Claim 4 further comprising two reinforcing ribs.~~

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3 ~~5/~~ 6. The invention of Claim 1 wherein said rigid material forms a rectangle with said
4 reinforcing ridge in one side and at least one reinforcing rib in a side facing said
5 reinforcing ridge and at least one strength indent in a side adjacent to said reinforcing
6 ridge.

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8 ~~7/~~ 6. The invention of Claim ~~6~~ ⁵ further comprising two strength indents, one strength indent in
9 each side adjacent to said reinforcing ridge.

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11 ~~7/~~ 8. The invention of Claim ~~6~~ ⁵ further comprising a pair of strength indents, two strength
12 indents in each side adjacent to said reinforcing ridge.

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14 ~~8/~~ 9. The invention of Claim ~~6~~ ⁵ further comprising a pair of reinforcing ribs in a side facing said
15 reinforcing ridge.

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17 ~~9/~~ 10. The invention of Claim ~~6~~ ⁵ further comprising a pair of reinforcing ribs in a side facing said
18 reinforcing ridge and a pair of strength indents; one strength indent in each side adjacent
19 to said reinforcing ridge.

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11. The invention of Claim 6 further comprising a pair of reinforcing ribs in a side facing said reinforcing ridge and two pairs of strength indents, one pair of strength indents in each side adjacent to said reinforcing ridge.

12. The invention of Claim 1 wherein said rigid material is sheet metal.

13. In a length of rigid material with first and second unjoined edges, a method of joining said edges and forming a reinforcing ridge comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a short extension in said first unjoined edge;
- (b) forming a long extension in said second unjoined edge; and
- (c) bringing said first and second unjoined edges together and bending said long extension over said short extension and forming a connection locking slot so that said first and second unjoined edges are joined together and form said reinforcing ridge.

14. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the steps of forming said short and long extensions with front and back faces so that when said unjoined edges are joined together, and the front face of said long extension generally covers the front face of said short extension and partially covers the back face of said short extension.

15. The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of forming said long extension so that it is approximately twice as long as said short extension and generally covers the front face

1 of said short extension and approximately one-half of the back face of said short extension
2 when said unjoined edges are brought together.

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4 16. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) forming said rigid material into a rectangular shape with said reinforcing ridge in
6 one side; and
7 (b) forming at least one reinforcing rib in a side facing said reinforcing ridge.

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9 17. The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of forming two reinforcing ribs in the
10 side facing said reinforcing ridge.

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12 18. The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of forming at least one strength indent
13 in a side adjacent to said reinforcing ridge.

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15 19. The method of Claim 18 further comprising the step of forming a pair of strength indents,
16 one in each side adjacent to said reinforcing ridge.

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18 20. The method of Claim 18 further comprising the step of forming two pairs of strength
19 indents, one pair in each side adjacent to said reinforcing ridge.
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